

Customary and Traditional Use Worksheets

Grouse and Ptarmigan, GMU 19



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RC 4, Tab 8.3

Unit 19 Grouse and Ptarmigan Species

GROUSE



Spruce grouse (*ADF&G*)



Ruffed grouse (*ADF&G*)



Sharp-tailed grouse (*ADF&G*)

PTARMIGAN



Willow ptarmigan (*USFWS*)



Rock ptarmigan (*ADF&G*)



White-tailed ptarmigan (*ADF&G*)

Proposal 117

Determine a customary and traditional use finding for grouse in Unit 19 and modify regulations to provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence take.

5 AAC 99.025(a) Customary and traditional uses of game population(s)

Effect of the proposal

Establish a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use finding for grouse in GMU 19 and modify seasons and bag limits where appropriate

Department position

NEUTRAL. This is an allocative issue

Public proposal

SHAC OPPOSED

McGrath AC **TOOK NO ACTION**

Central Kuskokwim AC **SUPPORTED**

Proposal 118

Determine a customary and traditional use finding for ptarmigan in Unit 19 and modify regulations to provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence take.

5 AAC 99.025(a)(12) Customary and traditional uses of game population(s)

Effect of the proposal

Establish a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use finding for grouse in GMU 19 and modify seasons and bag limits where appropriate

Department position

NEUTRAL. This is an allocative issue

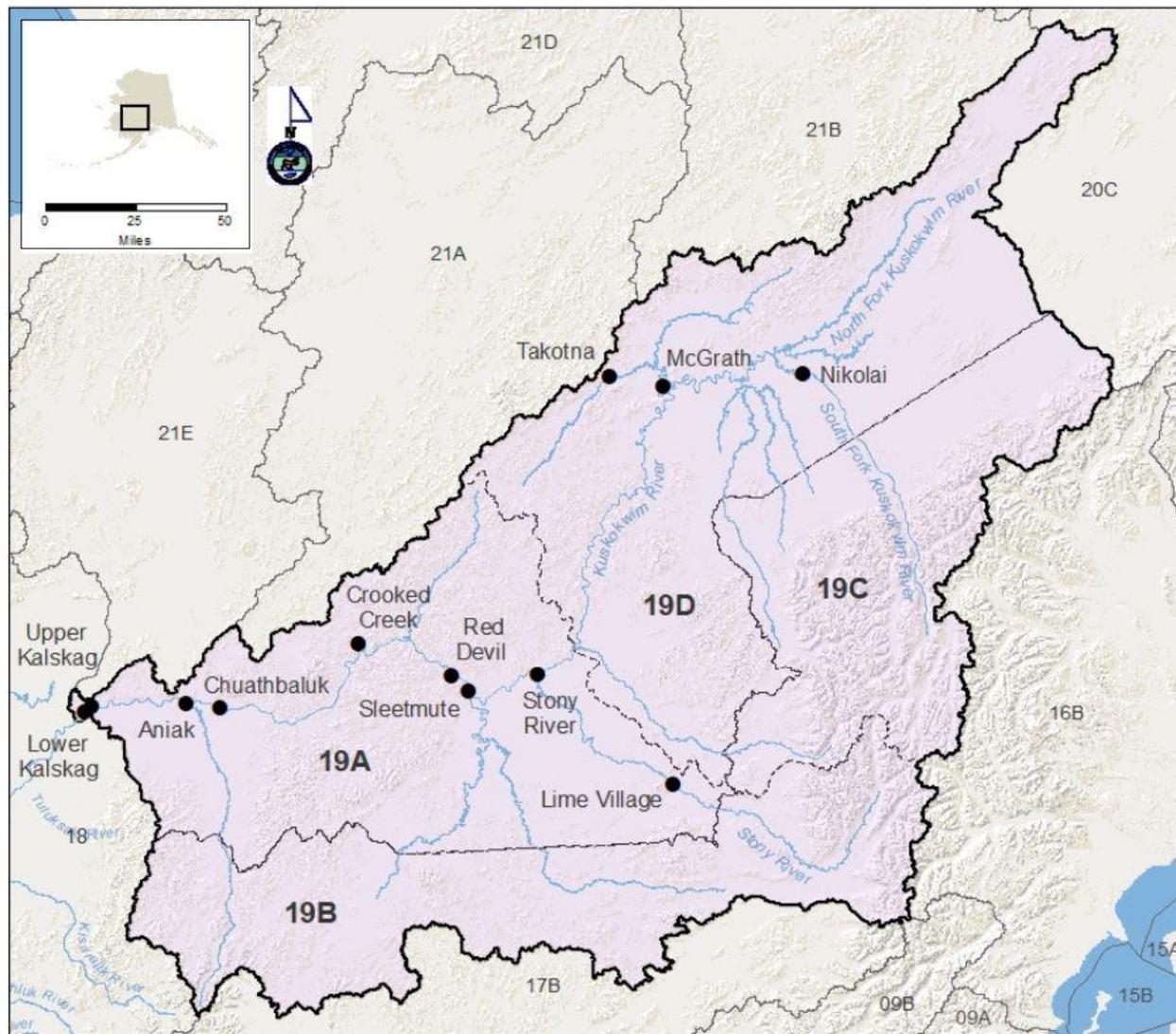
Public proposal

SHAC OPPOSED

McGrath AC **TOOK NO ACTION**

Central Kuskokwim AC **SUPPORTED**

GMU 19 Seasons/Bag Limits



Regulations

GROUSE

- August 10 – April 30
- 15 per day, 30 in possession

PTARMIGAN

- August 10 – April 30
- 20 per day, 40 in possession

Criterion 1: Length and Consistency of Use

- Ethnographic and scholarly sources have documented the harvest and use of grouse and ptarmigan in the area
- Department harvest surveys in Unit 19 communities document hunting and use of grouse and ptarmigan
- Used for food and handicrafts

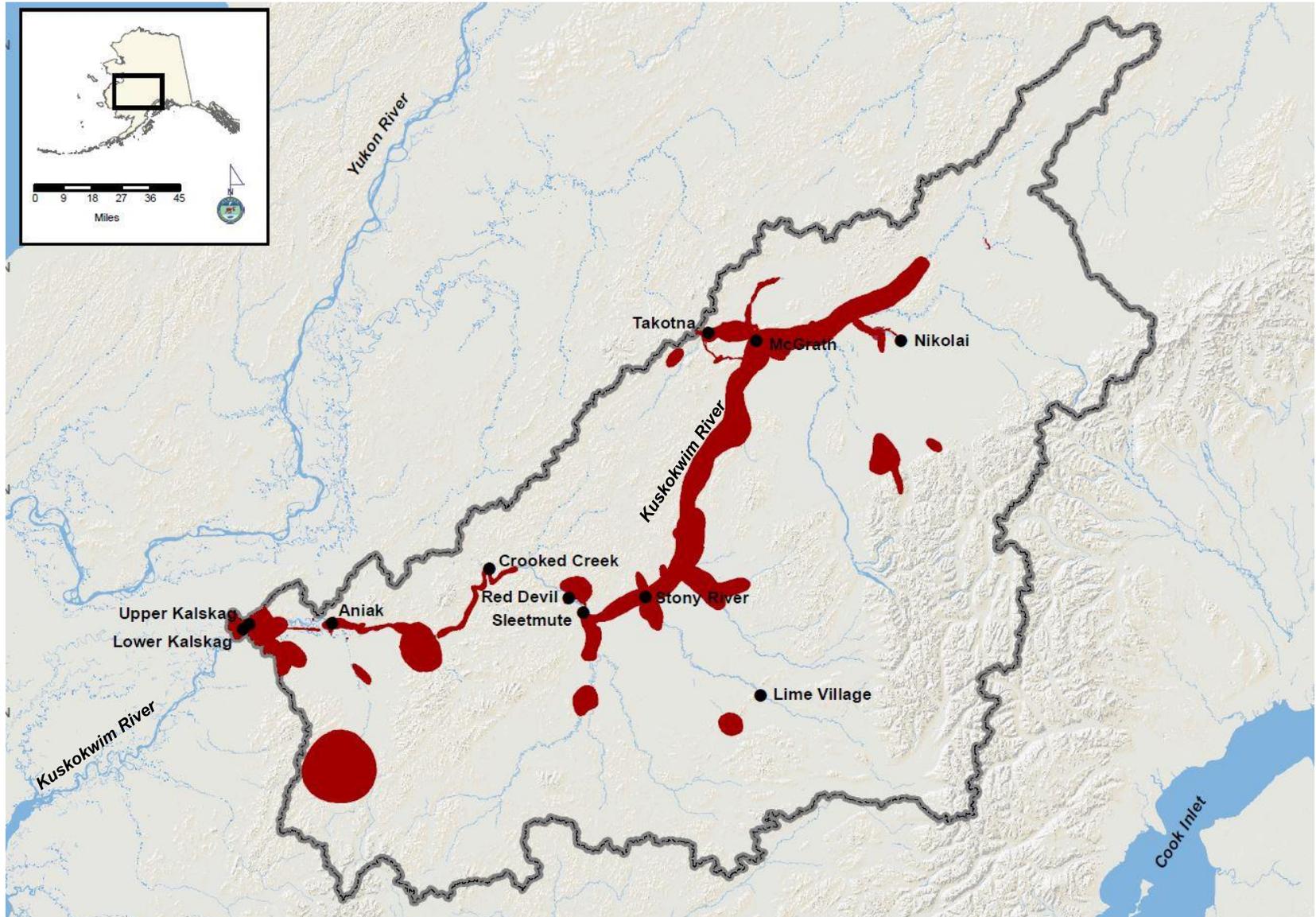
Criterion 2: Seasonality

- Grouse and ptarmigan are present and available year-round
- Historically taken year-round except when breeding and nesting
- Current harvests of grouse early fall through spring
- Ptarmigan late fall through spring
- Ptarmigan easy to hunt when plumage is in transition, or when white birds roost in bare trees

Criterion 3: Means and Methods of Harvest

- Historically harvested with snares, nets, blunt-tipped arrows, and spears
- Hunters use small bore rifles or shotguns and sometimes snares
- Hunted near communities on foot or by vehicle
- Taken opportunistically while hunting other game or fishing
- Grouse easy to hunt after feeding all day, or after swallowing stones in the fall

Criterion 4: Geographic Areas



Criterion 5: Means of Handling, Preparing, Preserving, Storing

- Grouse and ptarmigan provide critical fresh food when other sources are scarce
- Eaten fresh or dried, frozen for future use
- Medicinal and other culturally significant uses
- Dance fans and children's toys



Criterion 6: Intergenerational Transmission of Knowledge

- Grouse and ptarmigan hunting provides an important educational opportunity
- Parents, grandparents, other family teach children how to hunt and care for birds
- Skills related to hunting, plucking and cleaning, and preparing food
- Rules related to obtaining, processing, and sharing
- Older children hunt birds alone and in peer groups

Criterion 7: Distribution and Exchange

- Sharing of grouse and ptarmigan within and between communities is documented across Unit 19
- Surveys in 2009 and 2011 recorded households in all study communities sharing grouse and ptarmigan
- More households use grouse and ptarmigan than harvest them

Criterion 8: Diversity of Resources in an Area; Economic, Cultural, Social, and Nutritional Elements

- Unit 19 residents harvest a variety of wild food resources and in great quantities
- Grouse and ptarmigan are generally a small but integral portion of the wild food supply
- Valuable food source to households with limited resources
- Department surveys have documented widespread harvest and use of grouse and ptarmigan by area residents
- Wild foods foster health and wellbeing, help maintain cultural heritage, and provide critical economic support

Harvest and Use Information

Species	Location	Year	Avg. percentage of total community households						
			Number of communities	Harvest (ind.)	Avg. harvest community (ind.)	Harvesting	Using	Giving away	Receiving
Grouse	Nikolai	2002	1	363	363	74%	85%	41%	33%
	Lime Village	2007	1	118	118	43%	57%	29%	29%
	Central Kuskokwim	2009	7	2163	309	45%	52%	14%	13%
	Upper Kuskokwim	2011	3	2704	901	64%	65%	23%	14%
Ptarmigan	Nikolai	2002	1	51	51	11%	11%	7%	0%
	Lime Village	2007	1	13	13	21%	27%	0%	14%
	Central Kuskokwim	2009	7	490	70	14%	17%	5%	4%
	Upper Kuskokwim	2011	3	254	85	20%	20%	2%	2%

Conclusion

- Department has documented both quantitative and qualitative information regarding harvest and use
- Lack of comprehensive harvest and biological population data
- Questions